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#### **INDIA-SRI LANKA: Relations at New Low**

India and Sri Lanka are trading accusations following the Indians' seizure on Friday of a Sri Lankan ship, apparently in Indian waters. New Delhi claims the ship attacked more than 20 Indian fishing boats and stole their nets and catch. Colombo has protested that the Indian Coast Guard attacked without provocation and forced the Sri Lankan ship to go to India. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** Prime Minister Gandhi wants to improve relations with India's neighbors, but he is under increasing pressure from Tamil Nadu fishermen to protect them from Sri Lankan harassment. Colombo, in an effort to intercept Tamil insurgents moving between the two countries, has ordered its patrol boats to try to keep boats out of all but a narrow zone of the Palk Strait. The controversy over Friday's seizure probably will rule out a proposed meeting between Indian and Sri Lankan leaders. [REDACTED]

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